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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Food Distribution Programs Branch

MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT - MARCH 1946

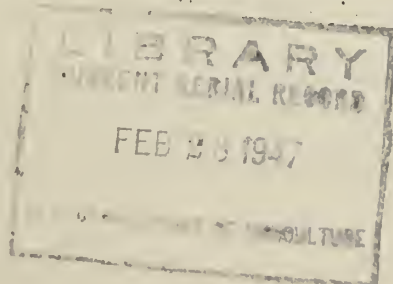
The monthly survey of the adequacy of food supplies reflected slight changes in early March as compared to the previous month. Supplies of canned and frozen fruits, dry beans, beef and veal, cured pork (except salted fat cuts), canned meats, dairy products, fats and oils, laundry soaps, and rice were generally scarce. Supplies of canned juices, canned and frozen vegetables, fresh oranges, white potatoes, cabbage, sugar, shell eggs, and chicken were generally meeting demands in the early part of March.

The 208 reports as summarized in this analysis are based on information gathered by field representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration during the first week of March at meetings of food advisory committees and by direct contacts with the food trade. Reports were received from the five regions as follows: Northeast 29, Midwest 61, South 45, Southwest 38, and West 35.

The analysis, as in the past, is divided into three parts. Part I gives a narrative summary of the month's developments. Part II gives percentage figures for each region, dividing commodities into three groups: generally scarce, generally adequate, and unbalanced. It must be remembered that these percentages are based on the number of areas reporting the situation, rather than on quantitative measures. Furthermore, each area report is given equal weight in computing the region and U. S. totals. Thus, shortage situations or differences among regions may be exaggerated. Part III shows the food situation in 28 selected localities.

The three categories of adequacy of supplies used in this survey are defined as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Scarce: | Supply is less than three-quarters of current demand. |
| Adequate: | Supply more than three-quarters of current demand but not sufficiently in excess of such demand to cause excessive inventories. |
| Surplus | Able to obtain supplies in quantities greater than demand. Inventories heavy and rapidly becoming excessive in view of current level of demand. |



PART I - ADEQUACY OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Fruits and Vegetables

Canned Fruits: A slight decline in the availability of peaches and fruit cocktail was reflected by a fewer number of areas reporting adequate supplies than the previous month. Supplies of pears and pineapple remained short in almost all areas. Peaches are the most readily available of the four major canned fruits, being in adequate supply in about 25 percent of the areas reporting.

Canned Juices: Grapefruit juice, orange juice, and orange-grapefruit blended juice were in adequate supply in practically all areas with a surplus of grapefruit juice reported in over 10 percent of the areas in the Southwest. Although a slightly larger proportion of the areas than in early February reported a scarcity of tomato juice, it still is reported adequate in 87 percent of all areas. Pineapple juice continued to be reported scarce in 98 percent of all areas.

Canned Vegetables: Compared with early February little change was observed in the proportion of areas reporting adequate supplies of snap beans, corn, and peas. Supplies were generally adequate throughout all of the five regions. In March a larger proportion of the areas than in February reported tomatoes in scarce supply in each of the five regions and in no region did over 24 percent of the areas report adequate supplies.

Frozen Foods: Frozen fruits continued in short supply generally. There appeared to be little change from the previous month when apricots and peaches were reported scarce in about 60 percent of the areas and strawberries scarce in almost all areas. Compared with February little change was noted in the supply of frozen vegetables. Snap beans, corn, peas, and spinach were generally sufficient to meet demand in most regions. Lima beans remained generally scarce.

Dried Foods: Supplies of dried prunes improved in four of the five regions and appeared to be generally adequate and well distributed among the regions. For the country as a whole, 54 percent of the areas reported raisins as adequate this month compared with 48 percent last month. However, there was little change in the Northeast, some deterioration in the Midwest, and improvement in the other regions. Dried beans were reported scarce in a larger proportion of the areas than in the previous month with 82 percent reporting supplies insufficient to meet demands.

Fresh Foods: Cabbage, oranges, and Irish potatoes were reported adequate or surplus in practically all areas, reflecting little change from the previous month. However, the proportion of areas reporting a surplus of potatoes increased slightly in the Southwest and West but decreased in the other regions.

Meats, Dairy Products, Fats, Sugar, and Other Items

Meats: Only approximately one-half of the areas in the country reported adequate supplies of beef. In general supplies were predominantly adequate in the Western Region and scarce in the Northeastern and Southern Regions. Veal continued in short supply in about 70 percent of the areas for the country

as a whole, but varied from 45 to 97 percent scarce in individual regions. Lamb was short of demand in 42 percent of the areas reporting. However, supplies improved relative to the demand during the last month in all regions except the Southwest, and improvement was particularly marked in the Midwest. Pork loins and chops, as well as fresh hams and shoulders continued to be reported as scarce in over two-thirds of the areas. The proportion of areas reporting a scarcity of pork loin chops and roasts increased from February in all regions except the Midwest. Cured hams and shoulders, and bacon were in short supply in about 85 percent of the areas reporting, showing little change from the previous month. An increase in the proportion of areas reporting adequate supplies of salted fat cuts was noted in all regions. No significant change from the previous month was noted in the supply of canned meats and cold cuts. Only about one-half of the areas reported canned meat as adequate but over 90 percent reported cold cuts as adequate.

Fish: Fresh and frozen fish were reported as adequate in two-thirds of the areas and little or no change was noted in the supply situation from the previous 2 months. Canned salmon, tuna, and sardines continued scarce in almost all areas.

Dairy Products: Butter supplies were inadequate to meet demand in 91 percent of the areas reporting. Only in the Midwest, where 31 percent so reported, were supplies adequate in any appreciable number of areas. Cheeses were very scarce. Reports indicate a definite downward trend in supplies in relation to demand. Evaporated milk supplies were inadequate in a larger proportion of the areas than in February, continuing the trend of the last few months. Only 43 percent of all areas reported adequate supplies the first part of March.

Fats and Oils: Margarine supplies, reflecting small supplies of butter, were insufficient to meet demands in 77 percent of the areas. This supply situation was the worst that has been reported during the past 6 months. Although a general scarcity of lard prevailed in most regions, supplies were adequate in more areas (45 percent) in early March than in a number of previous months. Shortening and salad oils continued to be reported scarce in about 97 percent of the areas.

Soap: For the country as a whole, the soap situation remained about the same as in February with supplies generally scarce. A slight improvement was reported for all types of soap in the Western region. In the Southwest, supplies of washing powder improved slightly in relation to demand but in the Northeast soap flakes and granules, as well as washing powder were reported scarce in 100 percent of the areas compared with 96 percent in February.

Sugar: Sugar supplies were generally adequate to meet the coupon demand with over 80 percent of the areas in each region reporting this condition. In the Northeast region sugar was meeting demands in most areas for the first time in several months.

Other Items: Shell egg supplies remained generally adequate, the same as reported a month earlier, in four of the five regions. In all regions some areas reported a surplus and in the Western region there was a marked increase in areas reporting this condition. Supplies of chicken were adequate

in all regions, and in three regions from 18 to 38 percent of the areas reported a surplus.

Rice continued short of demand in most areas, and a larger proportion of the areas reported short supplies than at any time since October. A sharp increase in the number of areas reporting a scarcity was noted in the South and Southwest.

PART II - NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION BY COMMODITIES

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY SCARCE (A) -- reported scarce by at least one-third of the areas in all five regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Scarce Supplies

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
<u>Fruits and vegetables</u>						
Canned fruit cocktail	93	93	97	96	92	86
Canned peaches	75	100	70	80	82	46
Canned pears	92	100	97	93	92	74
Canned pineapple	99	97	100	100	100	100
Canned pineapple juice	98	93	100	98	100	100
Canned tomatoes	83	100	79	76	90	77
Frozen apricots	58	76	58	65	51	43
Frozen peaches	57	76	53	60	61	40
Frozen strawberries	97	97	96	95	97	100
Frozen beans, lima	68	69	65	71	78	57
Dry beans	82	100	75	84	84	71
<u>Meats, dairy products, and fats</u>						
Veal: steaks, chops, and roasts	69	97	52	89	45	74
Pork: loin, chops, and roasts	66	90	59	78	53	54
ham and shoulder, fresh	71	90	67	76	66	63
ham and shoulder, cured	83	90	74	82	84	89
bacon	86	79	78	87	92	97
Canned salmon	97	100	97	100	97	89
Canned tuna	94	100	97	93	92	89
Canned sardines	92	93	98	89	87	89
Butter	91	100	69	100	97	97
Cheese (all types)	93	100	86	93	92	97
Evaporated milk	57	34	34	91	90	37
Margarine	77	100	49	64	90	100
Shortening	97	96	100	93	92	100
Salad oil	97	93	100	96	95	100
Soap: bar laundry	99	97	100	100	100	97
flakes and granules	97	100	98	100	97	89
washing powder	93	100	93	100	84	86
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Rice	69	72	64	78	82	54

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE (B) — reported in adequate or surplus supply by more than two-thirds of the areas in all five regions. Percentages starred include 10 percent or more "surplus" reports; those double-starred include 25 percent or more. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>						
Canned grapefruit juice	98	97	100	100	100*	91
Canned orange juice	99	97	100	100	100	97
Canned orange-grapefruit juice	97	97	100	95	100	91
Canned beans, green & wax	94	97	93	98	95	86
Canned corn	82	72	97	67	76	91
Canned peas	92	90	95	87	90	100
Canned tomato juice	87	90	87	78	90	91
Frozen beans, snap	75	79	81	68	75	74
Frozen spinach	84	86	92	71	89	79
Dried prunes	81	69	87	76	82	83
Oranges, fresh	99	100	98	100	100	100
Irish potatoes	99	100	100*	100	97*	100
Cabbage, fresh	99	100	98	98	100	100
<u>Meats</u>						
Cold cuts, bologna, salami, etc.	86	97*	98	87	95*	94
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Sugar	90	82	93	84	92	97
Eggs, shell	99*	100*	100*	98*	100*	100*
Chicken	94*	100**	87	96*	92*	97*

FOODS THAT ARE UNBALANCED (U) — reported adequate or surplus in more than two-thirds of the areas in one to four regions, scarce in other regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>						
Frozen corn, cut	71	66	86	49	81	68
Frozen peas	68	34	71	63	86	74
Raisins	54	34	62	69	63	43
<u>Meats, Fish and Fats</u>						
Beef steaks	46	14	56	20	53	80
Beef roasts	49	14	59	22	53	94
Hamburger	58	34	67	24	69	94
Lamb steaks, chops & roasts	58	38	74	38	71	63
Salted fat cuts	58	72	59	73	50	34
Canned meats	55	69	74	39	40	49
Fish, fresh & frozen	68	55	83	69	54	71
Lard	45	62	68	40	24	23

PART III - LOCAL SITUATIONS

Supplies are indicated as follows: A - Scarce; B - Adequate; C - Surplus; N - No Answer. Letters in parentheses after commodities refer to groups shown in Part II: (A) - Generally Scarce; (B) - Generally Adequate; (U) - Unbalanced.)

Product	'Balti'	'Bos-	'Buf-	'Hart-	'New	'Phil-	'adel-	'Port-	'Chi-	'Cleve'	'De-	'Mil-	'wau-	'St.	'lan-	'les-	'At-	'Ch'
	'more,	'ton,	'falo,	'ford,	'York,	'phia,	'land,	'cago,	'land,	'troit,	'kee,	'Omaha,	'Louis,'	'ta,	'ton,			
	'Md.	'Mass.	'N. Y.	'Conn.	'N. Y.	'Pa.	'Me.	'Ill.	'Ohio	'Mich.	'Wis.	'Nebr.	'Mo.	'Ga.	'S. C.			
Fruit cocktail (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
Peaches (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A
Pears (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pineapple (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Grapefruit juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Orange juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Orange-grapefruit juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pineapple juice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Beans green & wax (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peas (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tomatoes (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tomato juice (B)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Frozen apricots (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
peaches (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
strawberries (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
beans, lima (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
beans, snap (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
corn, cut (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
peas (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
spinach (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dried runes (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raisins (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Dry beans (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Oranges (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Potatoes, Irish (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cabbage (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

Product	'Balti-' 'more,' 'Md.'	'Bos-' 'ton,' 'Mass.'	'Buf-' 'falo,' 'N. Y.'	'Hart-' 'ford,' 'Conn.'	'New-' 'York,' 'N. Y.'	'Phil-' 'adel-' 'phia,' 'Pa.'	'Port-' 'land,' 'Me.'	'Chi-' 'cago,' 'Ill.'	'Cleve-' 'land,' 'Ohio'	'De-' 'troit,' 'Mich.'	'Mil-' 'wau-' 'kee,' 'Wis.'	'St.' 'Omaha,' 'Nebr.'	'At-' 'lan-' 'Louis,' 'Mo.'	'Char-' 'les-' 'ta,' 'Ga.'
Beef: steak (U)	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
roast (U)	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
hamburger (U)	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	A
Veal: steaks, chops & roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lamb: steaks, chops & roasts (U)	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	B	A	A	A
Fork: loin, chops & roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
ham & shoulder, fresh (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A
ham & shoulder, cured (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A
salted fat cuts (U)	B	B	A	A	B	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	B	A
bacon (A)	B	A	A	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	A
Cold cuts, bologna (B)	B	A	B	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	A
Canned meats (U)	B	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	A
Fish, fresh & frozen (U)	B	A	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	A
Canned: salmon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
tuna (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
sardines (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Butter (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cheese (all types) (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Evaporated milk (A)	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	A
Margarine (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lard (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shortening (A)	B	A	B	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	B	B	A
Salad oils (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bar laundry soaps (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Flakes & granules (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Washing powder (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sugar (B)	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	A
Eggs, shell (B)	C	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A
Chicken (B)	C	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A
Rice	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

N O R E F U O R F F F C F F I V F D

Product	'Jack-'	'Bir-'	'New	'Los-'	'Salt	'San
	'son-'	'ming-'	'Hous-'	'Ang-'	'Port-'	'Fran-'
	'ville,	'phis,	'ton,	'les,	'land,	'City,'
	'Fla. 'Ky.	'Tenn. 'Ala. 'Va.	'Texas 'Colo. 'Texas 'La.	'Cal. 'Ariz. 'Ore.	'Utah 'Cal.	'Wash
Fruit cocktail (A)	A	A	B	A	A	A
Peaches (A)	A	A	B	A	A	B
Pears (A)	A	A	B	A	A	A
Pineapple (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A
Grapefruit juice (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B
Orange juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Orange-grapefruit juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pineapple juice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A
Beans green & wax (B)	B	B	R	B	R	A
Corn (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peas (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tomatoes (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tomato juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Frozen apricots (A)	A	A	B	B	B	B
peaches (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A
strawberries (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A
beans, lima (A)	A	A	B	B	B	B
beans, snap (B)	A	B	B	B	B	B
corn, cut (U)	A	B	B	B	B	B
peas (U)	A	B	B	B	B	B
spinach (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dried prunes (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raisins (U)	A	B	B	A	A	A
Dry beans (A)	B	A	A	A	A	A
Oranges (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Potatoes, Irish (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cabbage (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B

Product	'Jack- 'son- 'ville, 'Fla.	'Ky. 'Tenn.	'Ala. 'Tenn.	'Bir- 'ming, 'ham, 'Va.	'Nor- 'folk, 'Tex.	'Fort 'Worth, 'Colo.	'Den- 'ver, 'Texas	'Hous- 'ton, 'Texas	'New 'Or- 'La.	'Los- 'Ange- 'les, 'Cal.	'Phoe- 'nix, 'Ariz.	'Port- 'land, 'Ore.	'Lake 'City, 'Utah	'Fran- 'cisco, 'Cal.	'Seat- 'tle, 'Wash.
Beef: steak (U)	A	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	B
roast (U)	A	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	B	B
hamburger (U)	A	C	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	B	B
Veal: steaks, chops & roasts (A)	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lamb: steaks, chops & roasts (U)	B	A	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	A
Pork: loin, chops & roasts (A)	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	A
ham & shoulder, fresh (A)	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	A
ham & shoulder, cured (A)	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
salted fat cuts (U)	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	A	A	A
bacon (A)	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	A	B	B
Cold cuts, bologna (B)	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	A	B	B
Canned meats (U)	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	A	B	B
Fish, fresh & frozen (U)	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	B
Canned: salmon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
tuna (A)	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
sardines (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Butter (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cheese (all types) (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Evaporated milk (A)	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	B	B
Margarine (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lard (U)	A	B	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shortening (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salad oils (A)	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bar laundry soaps (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Flakes & granules (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Washing powder (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sugar (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Eggs, shell (B)	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Chicken (B)	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rice (A)	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

